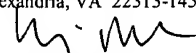


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 11, 2003.

Signed: 
Kimberly Melvin

Attorney Ref. No. NRCAP003
PATENT

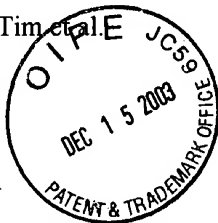
In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: POON, Alex Ka Tim et al

Application No.: 09/876,431

Filed: June 6, 2001

Title: Dual Force Mode Fine Stage Apparatus



Examiner: BROWN, Khaled

Group Art Unit: 2877

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BEFORE MAILING
DATE OF EITHER A FINAL
OFFICE ACTION OR NOTICE OF
ALLOWANCE (37 CFR 1.97(c))**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449, copies of which are attached, may be material to examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit these references in compliance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97. The Examiner is requested to make these citations of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that these references indeed constitute prior art.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, or after three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application, whichever event occurred last, but it is believed, before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under §1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.

Enclosed is a check for the fee of \$180.00 due under 37 CFR §1.17(p). If Commissioner determines that additional fees are required for filing the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to our deposit account number 50-1652 (Order No. NRCAP003).

12/17/2003 EAREGAY1 00000060 09876431

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180.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy A. Su

Registration No. 41,336

RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP
12930 Saratoga Ave., Suite D1
Saratoga, CA 95070
(408) 446-8690

Form 1449 (Modified) Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant (Use Several Sheets if Necessary)	Atty Docket No.	NRCAP003
	Application No.:	09/876,431
	Inventor	Alex Ka Tim Poon et al.
	Group	2851
	Filing Date	June 6, 2001
	Mailing Date	December 11, 2003

U.S. Patent or Published Documents

Examiner Initial	No.	Patent No.	Date	Patentee	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date
	A	5,841,250	11/24/1998	Korenage et al.	318	135	10/3/1996
	B	6,570,645	05/27/2003	Korenaga et al.	355	75	7/26/1999
	C	2003/0007140	01/09/2003	Korenaga	355	72	7/3/2002

Foreign Patent or Published Foreign Patent Application

Examiner Initial	No.	Document No.	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Sub-class	Translation	
							Yes	No

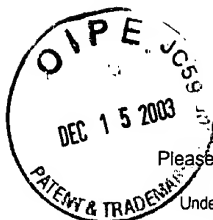
Other Documents

Examiner Initial	No.	Author, Title, Date, Place (e.g. Journal) of Publication

Examiner	Date Considered
----------	-----------------

Examiner: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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AF 12877

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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

Approved for use through 8/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/876,431
	Filing Date	June 6, 2001
	First Named Inventor	POON, Alex Ka Tim et al.
	Group Art Unit	2877
	Examiner Name	BROWN, Khaled
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	NRCAP003

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Postcard <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Remarks		The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-1652.
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm and Individual name	RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP Peggy A. Su, Reg. No. 41,336	
Signature		
Date	December 11, 2003	

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		December 11, 2003
Typed or printed name	Kimberly Melvin	
Signature		Date December 11, 2003

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PTO/SB/17 (10-03)

Approved for use through 7/31/2006. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2003

Effective 01/01/03. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)**180.00**

Complete if Known

Application Number 09/876,431

Filing Date June 6, 2001

First Named Inventor POON, Alex Ka Tim et al.

Examiner Name BROWN, Khaled

Group Art Unit 2877

Attorney Docket No. NRCAP003

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)
☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ MoneyOrder ☐ Other ☐ None
☐ Deposit Account:

Deposit
Account
Number

50-1652

Deposit
Account
Name

Ritter, Lang & Kaplan LLP

The Commissioner is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Credit any overpayments
☐ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application
☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1001	770	2001	385	Utility filing fee	
1002	340	2002	170	Design filing fee	
1003	530	2003	265	Plant filing fee	
1004	770	2004	385	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Extra Fee from below Fee Paid
Total Claims -20** = X =
Independent Claims -3** = X =
Multiple Dependent X =

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	86	2201	43	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	290	2203	145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	86	2204	43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	420	2252	210	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	950	2253	475	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,480	2254	740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,010	2255	1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	330	2401	165	Notice of Appeal	
1402	330	2402	165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	290	2403	145	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,330	2453	665	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,330	2501	665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	480	2502	240	Design issue fee	
1503	640	2503	320	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	180.00
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	770	2809	385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
1810	770	2810	385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
1801	770	2801	385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3)

(\$)**180.00**

SUBMITTED BY

Complete (if applicable)

Name (Print/Type)	Peggy A. Su	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	41,336	Telephone	(408) 446-8690
Signature		Date	December 11, 2003		

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimate to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting this completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.